Export of iron ore

*142. SHRI S.S. AHLUWALIA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that substantial volume of iron ore is being exported by various, PSUs and companies in private sector;

(b) if so, the details of annual volume and value of iron ore exports since 2002-03 till 30th June, 2007;

(c) whether duties have been levied by Government on iron ore export consignments;

(d) if so, the details of the genesis of export duty levied on iron ore indicating rates thereof since its inception till 30th June, 2007;

(e) the date of its last revision; and

(f) whether it was revised due to demands from stakeholders or unilaterally by Government?

THE MINISTER OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI KAMAL NATH): (a) and (b) The existing iron ore export policy regulates and promotes judicious use of iron ore for domestic purpose and export of surplus quantity. Production of iron ore is in excess of current domestic demand. Besides, the surplus iron ore fines produced during mining as well as sizing and calibrating lumpy ore has to be evacuated, failing which it would lead to curtailment of production resulting in unemployment predominantly in tribal areas, increased cost of production, reduction in economic activities and export earnings besides causing environmental hazards. Details of exports of iron ore in terms of quantity and value are as under:-

Year	Quantity (Million Tonnes)	Value (Rs. crores)
2002-03	48.02	3655.15
2003-04	62.57	7042.08
2004-05	78.14	13650.46
2005-06	89.27	17375.00
2006-07 (Prov.)	93.79	18836.07
2007-08 (Apr-June)	22.73	N.A.

Source: Quantity – Goa Mineral Ore Exporters Association (GMOEA), Kudremukh Iron Ore Company Limited (KIOCL), National Mineral Development Corporation (NMDC), MMTC Limited and Private Exporters

Value - Values are estimates based on the quantities and price trend during the years and infonnation by GMOEA, KIOCL and MMTC

(c) Yes, Sir.

(d) to (f) Export duty on iron ore appears in the Second Schedule of the Customs Tariff Act, 1975. However, the export duty on iron ore has generally been exempted through a notification, except for 1992-93, when an export duty of 5% *ad valorem* was levied. It was exempted again *w.e.f.* 28.2.1993. The Hoda Committee recommended

imposition of export duty on exports of iron ore in the lump form with iron content above 65%. Taking cue from this recommendation, and in order to conserve natural resources as well as to raise revenue, in the Budget 2007-08, Government has imposed export duty of Rs. 300 per metric tonne on iron ores and concentrates, all sorts *w.e.f.* 1.3.2007. However, after considering various representations from the stakeholders, *w.e.f.* 3rd May, 2007, the rate of export duty on iron ore fines of iron content of 62% and below has been reduced from Rs. 300 per metric tonne to Rs. 50 per metric tonne.

Guidelines on indecent print and telecast

†*143. SHRI RAM JETHMALANI:
SHRI RAJ MOHINDER SINGH MAJITHA:

Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have prepared guidelines to control indecent print and telecast in electronic media which pollute culture, tradition and civilization of the country;

(b) if so, the details of these guidelines and mediums which have contributed in their preparation;

(c) if the guidelines have not been prepared, the reasons therefor; and

(d) whether it is. a fact that such telecast are going on in the country in the name of freedom of expression?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRI PRIYARANJAN DASMUNSI): (a) and (b) The Press in India is free from Government control. In pursuance of its policy to uphold the freedom of the press, the Government does not interfere in it's functioning. The Press Council of India,a statutory autonomous body, has issued 'Norms of Journalistic Conduct' which cover principles and ethics with regard to journalism as also guidelines for reporting on specific issues of public and national importance. For electronic media, the Programme and Advertisement Codes have been prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act, 1995 and rules thereunder, as per Statement-I and II (*See* below.)

(c) In view of above does not arise.

(d) The telecast of programme and advertisements is according to the Programme and Advertisement codes prescribed under the Cable TV Networks (Regulation) Act. 1995 and rules made thereunder. Government takes action in cases of violation of these codes. These Codes are sought to be revised and a Committee comprising representatives of Broadcasting/civil society organizations and consumer forums is working on proposals in this regard.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi